AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-beam scanning device, comprising:

a light source that emits a plurality of light beams;

a polygonal mirror that deflects the light beams emitted by said light source to scan an object; and

an optical system that converges the deflected light beams on a plurality of objects to be scanned, the plurality of objects being arranged on a side, with respect to said polygonal mirror, in which said light beams scan, from a position closer to said polygonal mirror to a position farther from said polygonal mirror,

said optical system including a plurality of optical path turning systems that turn optical paths of the deflected light beams, each of said optical path turning systems comprising a first ~~reflective~~ reflection surface, the first ~~reflective~~ reflection surface of each of said optical path turning systems being separate from the first ~~reflective~~ reflection surface of every other optical path turning system, each of said first ~~reflective~~ reflection surfaces being positioned along a direction in which the light beams are deflected by the polygonal mirror, optical path lengths of the optical paths being substantially the same, and all of said optical path turning systems including an even number of reflection surfaces, wherein the optical path turning system which is the farthest away from the polygonal mirror includes a prism having two reflection surfaces, said first reflection surface being one of the two reflection surfaces of said prism.

2. (Previously Presented) The multi-beam scanning device according to claim 1, further comprising an fΘ lens including a first lens, a second lens and a plurality of third lenses, all the deflected light beams passing through said first lens and said second lens, each deflected light beam passed through said first lens and said second lens passing through one of the plurality of third lenses, said plurality of optical path turning systems receiving said plurality of light beams that emerge from said second lens and directing the received light beams to said plurality of third lenses.

3. (Currently Amended) The multi-beam scanning device according to claim 2, each of said optical path turning systems including [[a]] said first reflection surface and a second reflection surface, each light beam emerged from said second lens being incident on the first reflection surface of one of said optical path turning systems, each optical path including a first optical path defined between said second lens and said first reflection surface, a second optical path defined between said first reflection surface and said second reflection surface, and a third optical path defined between said second reflection surface and said objects.

4. (Previously Presented) The multi-beam scanning device according to claim 3, wherein the third optical path located closest to said polygonal mirror passes between said polygonal mirror and said first lens.

5. (Original) The multi-beam scanning device according to claim 4, wherein at least one of said optical path turning systems includes a first mirror and a second mirror,

said first reflection surface being a reflection surface of said first mirror, said second reflection surface being a reflection surface of said second mirror.

6. (Currently Amended) The multi-beam scanning device according to claim 4, wherein ~~at least one of said optical path turning systems includes a prism having two reflection surfaces, said first reflection surface being one of the reflection surfaces of said prism,~~ said second reflection surface ~~being the other~~ is one of the reflection surfaces of said prism.

7. (Original) The multi-beam scanning device according to claim 4, wherein at least one of said optical path turning systems includes a prism having a reflection surface and a mirror having a reflection surface, said first reflection surface being one of the reflection surfaces of said prism and said mirror, said second reflection surface being the other one of the reflection surfaces of said prism and said mirror.

8. (Original) The multi-beam scanning device according to claim 4, wherein each of said optical paths is configured such that the third optical path intersects with the first optical path.

9. (Original) The multi-beam scanning device according to claim 4, wherein each of said optical paths is configured such that the beam proceeding along the second optical path is directed on an opposite side, with respect to the first optical path, of said objects to be scanned.

10. (Previously Presented) The multi-beam scanning device according to claim 4, wherein said first lens has a positive power mainly in a main scanning direction in which the plurality of light beams scan.

11. (Original) The multi-beam scanning device according to claim 4, said second lens having a positive power only in a main scanning direction in which the plurality of light beams scan.

12. (Previously Presented) The scanning device according to claim 4, wherein each of said third lenses has a positive power mainly in an auxiliary scanning direction, which is perpendicular to a main scanning direction where the light beams scan.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The multi-beam scanning device according to claim 1, wherein each of said optical path turning systems has the same number of reflection surfaces.

16. (Previously Presented) The multi-beam scanning device according to claim 1, wherein said optical path turning systems converge the deflected light beams on said plurality of objects, said plurality of objects being arranged in a plane substantially parallel to the deflected light beams.

17. (Previously Presented) The multi-beam scanning device according to claim 1, wherein each of said optical path turning systems reflect a deflected light beam an even number of times.